JRM:lmg- 9/16/05 P0668

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In the Claims:

- 1. (Currently amended) A system for detecting a watermark in host data which includes: a pre-filter which removes aspects of the host data that are not carrying a watermark signal, thereby enhancing the signal to noise [rations] ratio of the watermark signal, and a watermark detection mechanism, which utilizes knowledge of characteristics of a watermark to detect the presence of a watermark.
 - 2. (Original) The system recited in claim I where the host data is image data.
 - 3. (Original) The system recited in claim 1 where the host data is audio data.
 - 4. (Original) The system recited in claim 1 where the host data is video data.
- (Currently amended) A method of extracting digital watermark data from host data which includes,

receiving said host data as input to a watermark detection operation to detect a watermark signal embedded in said host data; and

pre-filtering said host data prior to the watermark detection operation thereby enhancing the signal to noise [ratios] ratio of the watermark signal.

- 6. (Previously presented) The method recited in claim 5 wherein said pre-filtering comprises first applying a highpass operator to said host data and then applying a nonlinear operator to said data.
 - 7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the host data is image data.
 - 8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the host data is audio data.
 - 9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the host data is video data.

PATENT

JRM:lmp 9/16/05 P0668

- 10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said highpass operator is a Laplacian operator.
- 11. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said nonlinear operator is a Signum operator.
- 12. (Original) The method of detecting a watermark signal in host data which includes, first filtering said host data using a high pass Laplacian filter, applying a nonlinear signum function to the output of said high pass filter, and then detecting the presence of a watermark signal in said filtered data.